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SOURCE Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, No 44, 1950.

GDR LAW OF 22 MARCH 1950 ON THE AWARDING OF NATIONAL PRIZES

The German men and women whose outstanding scientific achievements, important technological inventions, introduction of new production and work methods, and significant contributions in the fields of fine arts and literature have been notable factors in the democratic development of the German people are deserving of the highest honors and distinctions. Therefore, pursuant to the Decree of 31 March 1949 on the Preservation and Development of German Science and Culture (Zentralgesetzblatt, Central Journal of Decrees, p 227), the Provisional People's Chamber enacts the following law:

ARTICLE 1

Type and Scope of National Prizes

1. The following National Prizes shall be distributed each year:
 - a. A total of 30 prizes in the field of science and technology for outstanding scientific achievements, important technological inventions, and the introduction of new work and production methods having great bearing on the national economy; to be divided as follows: five First-Class prizes of 100,000 Deutsche marks each, ten Second-Class prizes of 50,000 Deutsche marks each, and 15 Third-Class prizes of 25,000 Deutsche marks each.
 - b. Eighteen prizes in the field of literature and the arts for works and achievements of high ideological and artistic standards which contributed substantially to the cultural evolution and democratic education of the German people; to be divided as follows: three First-Class prizes of 100,000 Deutsche marks each, six Second-Class prizes of 50,000 Deutsche marks each, and nine Third-Class prizes of 25,000 Deutsche marks each.
2. Works and achievements for which National Prizes are proposed must have come to the attention of the public within 2 years prior to conferment of the awards.
3. National Prizes shall be exempt from taxation.

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ARTICLE 2

Recipients of National Prizes

1. Every German shall be eligible for a National Prize award, regardless of his place of residence.
2. Germans who acquired citizenship of another country as a result of emigration for political reasons during the Hitler era shall be eligible for National Prize awards.
3. National Prizes may be awarded for individual and for collective achievements.
4. National Prizes may be awarded, as often as merited, to the same individual or group for new prizeworthy achievements.

ARTICLE 3

Right of Nomination

1. The following institutions and organizations shall have the right to submit nominations for National Prize candidates to the committees designated in Article 5:
 - a. The German Academy of Sciences
 - b. The German Academy of Fine Arts
 - c. The winners of national awards
 - d. The central committees of the antifascist democratic parties
 - e. The central committees of the Federation of Free German Trade Unions
 - f. The presiding council of the Cultural League for the Democratic Renewal of Germany
 - g. The Central Council of the Free German Youth
 - h. The Central Committee of the League of Democratic German Women
 - i. The Central Administration of the Society for German-Soviet Friendship
 - k. The Central Committee of the Farmers Mutual Aid Association
 1. The members of the government of the GDR (German Democratic Republic)
 - m. The governments of the Laender
 - n. The Magistrate of Greater Berlin
 - o. The science academies, universities, and advanced schools of science and technology
 - p. The academies of fine arts and music
 - q. The board of the Chamber of Technology

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2. Proposals for the awarding of National Prizes made by subordinate units of organizations, work units (collectives), faculties of university teachers, and individuals must be presented to one of the institutions or organizations enumerated in Article 3, Section 1. Proposals not so presented shall receive no consideration.

ARTICLE 4

Presentation of Nominations

1. The organizations or institutions entitled to nominate candidates shall not be restricted to their own field of specialization or regional jurisdiction but shall have the right to nominate candidates for National Prize awards in any field of activity and from all sections of Germany.
2. The institutions and organizations enumerated in Article 3, Section 1, shall present their proposals to the Promotion Committee, Office of the Minister President, not later than 1 July of the year for which the award is to be conferred. All communications must clearly indicate whether they pertain to proposals for prize awards in the field of science and technology or in the field of literature and fine arts.
3. The proposals must contain the following information about the nominee: name, occupation, address, important biographic data, survey of past accomplishments, basis for nomination as candidate for a National Prize award, and expert opinion regarding the work or performance on which the nomination is based.

ARTICLE 5

Committees on National Prize Awards

1. The Council of Ministers of the GDR shall nominate two committees, one for the awarding of National Prizes in science and technology and the other for awarding National Prizes in literature and the fine arts.
2. The proposals presented to the Office of the Promotion Committee, under the Minister President, shall be transmitted to the appropriate committee. The committees shall examine such proposals and shall submit to the GDR government on or before 15 September of each year a carefully substantiated list of candidates for National Prize awards.

ARTICLE 6

Procedures in Committee

1. The committees shall determine by majority vote the candidates for National Prizes. At the same time, the committees shall also determine the prize category applicable to each candidate.
2. The chairmen of the two committees shall cooperate in drawing up the rules of procedure which shall be submitted for confirmation to the Minister President of the GDR.

ARTICLE 7

Awarding of National Prizes

1. The GDR Council of Ministers shall decide which candidates shall be awarded National Prizes, and such decisions shall be subject to confirmation by the President of the GDR.

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2. National Prizes shall be awarded to the winners by the President of the GDR in the course of a public ceremony. The presentation shall be made in the form of a scroll and a gold medal, the latter to be worn conspicuously by the winner.

3. Commencing in 1951, the ceremony shall take place on 7 October of each year.

4. The Council of Ministers shall issue special directives with respect to the date of the ceremony for 1950 and the deadlines for submitting proposals for the 1950 awards (Section 2, Articles 4 and 5).

ARTICLE 8

Financial Arrangements and Technical Preparations

1. The funds necessary for arranging public ceremonies, for procuring expert opinions, for establishing a permanent secretariat for the committees, and for other expenditures incurred in connection with the awarding of National Prizes shall be made available from the budget of the Office of the Promotion Committee, under the Minister President.

2. The secretariat of the committees for the awarding of National Prizes shall function under the authority of the Office of the Promotion Committee and shall receive working instructions from the chairmen of the two committees.

3. Confirmation by the GDR Council of Ministers shall be required for changes in the membership of the committees.

ARTICLE 9

Repeal of Provisions to the Contrary

The First Implementation Regulation of 18 May 1949 pertaining to the Decree on the Preservation of German Science and Culture (Zentralgesetzblatt, p 387) shall be superseded and repealed by this law.

ARTICLE 10

Implementation Regulations

1. Regulations for the implementation of this law shall be issued by the government of the GDR.

2. This law shall be effective as of the date of its promulgation.

Berlin, 22 March 1950

The foregoing law, drawn up by the executive vice-president of the Provisional People's Chamber under the date of 21 April 1950, is hereby promulgated.

Berlin, 21 April 1950

The President of the GDR
by J. Dieckmann, Deputy
President of the Provisional People's Chamber

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